(ग) कुछ सर्किलों में पर्याप्त आवेदन प्राप्त न होने और अन्य मामलों में तकनीकी व्यवहार्यता न होने या आवेदकों की ओर से विभागीय औपचारिकताएं पूरी करने में विलम्ब के कारण लक्ष्य पूरे नहीं किए जा सके।

(घ) सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन अनुसूचित जाति/अनु. जनजाति तथा शारीरिक रूप से विकलांग उन सभी को उदारतापूर्वक अलाट किए जाते हैं जो स्वैच्छा से इनका संचालन करने के लिए तैयार हों। अतः श्रेणीवार आंकड़े नहीं रखे जाते ।

Operation of Long-Distance calls a by Foreign Companies

874. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to hand over the operation of long distance calls to foreign companies on an experimental basis;

(b) if so, whether any offer has been made by French Government for participation to cater to the special requirement of business community in the country;

(c) wheher the World Bank recommended the entry of foreign firms in telecom sector to improve the existing services;

(d) if so, what are the proposals under consideration to bring down the rates of long distance calls both in the STD segment and trunk call segment; and

(e) what are the details of the steps taken to reduce the charges of long distance calls ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (Shri Sukh Ram) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

(e) There are no specific steps taken to reduce the charges of long distance calls, but steps are taken to modernise and increase in reliability of the network.

Privatisation of Indian Telephone Industries

875. DR. SANJAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has, recently, suggested some reform in the Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) and the Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL) particularly pressing their privatisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (Shri Sukh Ram) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In respect of Both ITI & HCL the report has suggested that the Companies should be restructured in conjuction with a dilution of Public Sector Shareholding.

(c) The Government have already disinvested some of its shareholdings besides taking action to reconstitute the Boards ITI and HCL. Certain product diversification schemes as also steps for upgradation of technologies have been undertaken.

Work Force in Telecom Factory in Calcutta

876. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 50 per cent of total work-force to more or less are remaining idle in the Telecom Factory, Calcutta for want of jobs;

(b) whether the management could not foresee this kind of wastage nor it could